

AMENDMENTS TO LB 192

Introduced by Education

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments
2 thereto and insert the following new sections:

3 Section 1. Section 85-1412, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

5 85-1412 The commission shall have the following
6 additional powers and duties:

7 (1) Conduct surveys and studies as may be necessary to
8 undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant
9 to section 85-1403 and request information from governing
10 boards and appropriate administrators of public institutions and
11 other governmental agencies for research projects. All public
12 institutions and governmental agencies receiving state funds
13 shall comply with reasonable requests for information under this
14 subdivision. Public institutions may comply with such requests
15 pursuant to section 85-1417;

16 (2) Recommend to the Legislature and the Governor
17 legislation it deems necessary or appropriate to improve
18 postsecondary education in Nebraska and any other legislation it
19 deems appropriate to change the role and mission provisions in
20 sections 85-917 to 85-966.01;

21 (3) Establish any advisory committees as may be necessary
22 to undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant
23 to section 85-1403 or to solicit input from affected parties

1 such as students, faculty, governing boards, administrators
2 of the public institutions, administrators of the private
3 nonprofit institutions of postsecondary education and proprietary
4 institutions in the state, and community and business leaders
5 regarding the coordination function of the commission;

6 (4) Participate in or designate an employee or employees
7 to participate in any committee which may be created to prepare
8 a coordinated plan for the delivery of educational programs and
9 services in Nebraska through the telecommunications system;

10 (5) Seek a close liaison with the State Board of
11 Education and the State Department of Education in recognition
12 of the need for close coordination of activities between elementary
13 and secondary education and postsecondary education;

14 (6) Administer the Integrated Postsecondary Education
15 Data System or other information system or systems to provide the
16 commission with timely, comprehensive, and meaningful information
17 pertinent to the exercise of its duties. The information system
18 shall be designed to provide comparable data on each public
19 institution. The commission shall also administer the uniform
20 information system prescribed in sections 85-1421 to 85-1427 known
21 as the Nebraska Educational Data System. Public institutions shall
22 supply the appropriate data for the information system or systems
23 required by the commission;

24 (7) Administer the Community Scholarship Foundation
25 Access College Early Scholarship Program Act and the Nebraska
26 Scholarship Act;

27 (8) Accept and administer loans, grants, and programs

1 from the federal or state government and from other sources, public
2 and private, for carrying out any of its functions, including
3 the administration of privately endowed scholarship programs. Such
4 loans and grants shall not be expended for any other purposes than
5 those for which the loans and grants were provided. The commission
6 shall determine eligibility for such loans, grants, and programs,
7 and such loans and grants shall not be expended unless approved by
8 the Governor;

9 (9) Consistent with section 85-1620, approve, in a
10 timely manner, new baccalaureate degree programs to be offered
11 at private postsecondary career schools as defined in section
12 85-1603. The commission may charge a reasonable fee based on
13 its administrative costs for authorizations pursuant to this
14 subdivision and section 85-1620. The commission shall report such
15 action to the Commissioner of Education;

16 (10) Pursuant to sections 85-1101 to 85-1104, authorize
17 out-of-state institutions of higher or postsecondary education to
18 offer courses or degree programs in this state;

19 (11) Pursuant to sections 85-1105 to 85-1111, approve
20 or disapprove petitions to establish new private colleges in this
21 state;

22 (12) On or before December 1, 2000, and on or before
23 December 1 every two years thereafter, submit to the Legislature
24 and the Governor a report of its objectives and activities and
25 any new private colleges in Nebraska and the implementation of any
26 recommendations of the commission for the preceding two calendar
27 years;

1 (13) Provide staff support for interstate compacts on
2 postsecondary education; and

3 (14) Request inclusion of the commission in any existing
4 grant review process and information system.

5 Sec. 2. Sections 2 to 7 of this act shall be known and
6 may be cited as the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act.

7 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Access College Early
8 Scholarship Program Act:

9 (1) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for
10 Postsecondary Education;

11 (2) Extreme hardship means any event including fire,
12 illness, accident, or job loss that has recently resulted in a
13 significant financial difficulty for a student or the student's
14 parent or legal guardian;

15 (3) Postsecondary educational institution means a
16 two-year or four-year college or university in Nebraska which is a
17 member institution of an accrediting body recognized by the United
18 States Department of Education; and

19 (4) Student means a student attending a Nebraska high
20 school.

21 Sec. 4. The Access College Early Scholarship Program is
22 established. The purpose of the program is to provide financial
23 assistance to low-income students who are taking courses for credit
24 at a postsecondary educational institution while still enrolled in
25 high school. The program shall be administered by the commission.

26 Sec. 5. (1) A student is eligible for the Access College
27 Early Scholarship Program if such student or the student's parent

1 or legal guardian is eligible to receive:

2 (a) Supplemental Security Income;

3 (b) Food stamps;

4 (c) Free or reduced-price lunches under United States
5 Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs;

6 (d) Aid to families with dependent children; or

7 (e) Assistance under the Special Supplemental Nutrition
8 Program for Women, Infants, and Children; or

9 (2) The student or the student's parent or legal guardian
10 has experienced an extreme hardship as defined in section 3 of this
11 act.

12 Sec. 6. (1) An applicant for the Access College Early
13 Scholarship Program shall complete an application form developed
14 and provided by the commission and shall forward the form to his
15 or her guidance counselor. The guidance counselor shall verify the
16 student's eligibility under the Access College Early Scholarship
17 Program Act and shall forward the information to the commission
18 for review within fifteen days following receipt of the form from
19 the student. Notification of tuition and fees shall be provided
20 to the commission by the student, high school, or postsecondary
21 educational institution as determined by the commission.

22 (2) The commission shall review the application and
23 verify the student's eligibility under the act. The commission
24 shall notify the student and the student's guidance counselor of
25 the estimated award amount in writing within thirty days following
26 receipt of the form from the student's guidance counselor. The
27 scholarship award shall equal the tuition and fees accrued by

1 the student from the postsecondary educational institution. The
2 commission shall forward such amount directly to the postsecondary
3 educational institution as payment of such student's tuition and
4 fees.

5 (3) The commission shall make such payments in the order
6 the applications are received by the commission until funds are
7 inadequate to fulfill any remaining scholarships.

8 (4) There is no limit on the number of scholarships a
9 student may receive under the act.

10 Sec. 7. The commission may adopt and promulgate rules
11 and regulations to carry out the Access College Early Scholarship
12 Program Act.

13 Sec. 8. Original section 85-1412, Revised Statutes
14 Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is repealed.

15 Sec. 9. The following sections are outright repealed:
16 Sections 85-2001, 85-2002, 85-2003, 85-2004, 85-2005, 85-2006,
17 85-2007, 85-2008, 85-2009, and 85-2010, Revised Statutes Cumulative
18 Supplement, 2006.